



Iw

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Tokumi KOBAYASHI Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned
Appl. No. : 10/597,390 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
(U.S National Stage of PCT/JP2005/001565)
I.A. Filed : January 27, 2005 Confirmation No. : 1319
For : MANAGEMENT METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DEVICE REQUIRING MAINTENANCE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby brings to the attention of the Examiner the following information.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with respect to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2005/001565, of which the above-captioned application is the U.S. National Stage Application. A copy of the International Search Report has been filed concurrently with the present application and should thus have already been brought to the attention of the Examiner.

- (1) International Application Publication No. WO 02/31717 A1, along with patent family member U.S. Application Publication No. 2004/0093102 to LIIRI et al., which was published on May 13, 2004;
- (2) International Application Publication No. WO 96/27171 A1;

- (3) U.S. Patent No. 6,658,311 to DOBA, which issued on December 2, 2003;
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 6,006,171 to VINES et al., which issued on December 21, 1999; and
- (5) European Patent Publication No. EP 1 128 245 A2, along with patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0016848 to SEKITANI, which was published on August 23, 2001.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the international claims by the International Examiner, is set forth in the International Search Report.

Applicant also submits the following document:

- (6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-127487 A, along with an English language Abstract. Applicant notes that this document is cited beginning at page 2 of the specification of the above-captioned application.

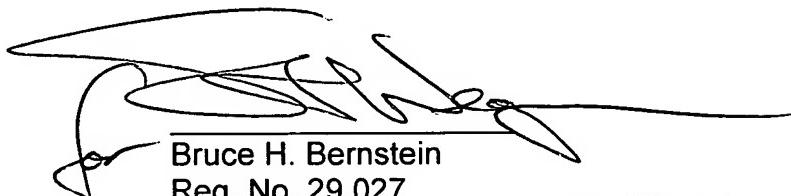
Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, including the noted English language Abstracts, are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Tokumi KOBAYASHI



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

November 2, 2006
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, Virginia 20191
(703) 716-1191

***EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.